

## CLAIMS

1. A deficiency detecting apparatus, which detects deficiencies on an information medium that are unable to be recorded or reproduced when an information signal is recorded / reproduced with respect to the information medium using a light beam generated by a laser light source, comprising:
  - a power adjusting section for adjusting an emitting power of the laser light source to an optimum value; and
  - a deficiency detecting section for comparing a threshold value determined in accordance with the emitting power of the laser light source adjusted by the power adjusting section with a value corresponding to reflected light that is the light beam reflected by an information layer of the information medium, and detecting the deficiencies on the information layer in accordance with a result of the comparison.
- 10 2. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the deficiency detecting section determines the threshold value in accordance with an emitting power selected from a predetermined range of laser power.
- 20 3. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the deficiency detecting section determines the threshold value in accordance with an average value of the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section.
- 25 4. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section is composed of plural power levels, and the deficiency detecting section determines the threshold value in accordance with a value obtained by summing the plural power levels at predetermined rates.
- 30 5. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section is composed of plural power levels, and the deficiency detecting section determines the threshold value in accordance with the highest power level among the plural power levels.

6. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 1 or 2,  
wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section  
is composed of plural power levels, and  
the deficiency detecting section determines the threshold value in  
5 accordance with an erasing power level that is used for erasing among the  
plural power levels.
7. A deficiency detecting apparatus, which detects deficiencies on an  
information medium that are unable to be recorded or reproduced when an  
10 information signal is recorded / reproduced with respect to the information  
medium using a light beam generated by a laser light source, comprising:  
a power adjusting section for adjusting an emitting power of the  
laser light source to an optimum value; and  
a deficiency detecting section for amplifying a signal corresponding  
15 to reflected light that is the light beam reflected by an information layer of  
the information medium at an amplification factor determined in accordance  
with the emitting power of the laser light source adjusted by the power  
adjusting section so as to generate a signal for amplified reflected light  
amount, and for comparing a value corresponding to the signal for the  
20 amplified reflected light amount with a predetermined threshold value and  
detecting the deficiencies on the information layer in accordance with a  
result of the comparison.
8. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the  
25 deficiency detecting section determines the amplification factor in  
accordance with an emitting power selected from a predetermined range of  
laser power.
9. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8,  
30 wherein the deficiency detecting section determines the amplification factor  
in accordance with an average value of the emitting power adjusted by the  
power adjusting section.
10. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8,  
35 wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section  
is composed of plural power levels, and  
the deficiency detecting section determines the amplification factor

in accordance with a value obtained by summing the plural power levels at predetermined rates.

11. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8,  
5 wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section is composed of plural power levels, and  
the deficiency detecting section determines the amplification factor in accordance with the highest power level among the plural power levels.
- 10 12. The deficiency detecting apparatus according to claim 7 or 8,  
wherein the emitting power adjusted by the power adjusting section is composed of plural power levels, and  
the deficiency detecting section determines the amplification factor in accordance with an erasing power level that is used for erasing among the  
15 plural power levels.